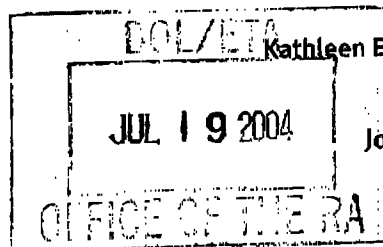




LOUISIANA WORKS

DEPARTMENT OF LABOR



Kathleen Babineaux Blanco
Governor
John Warner Smith
Secretary

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

July 13, 2004

Mr. Joseph C. Juarez, Regional Administrator
Employment and Training Administration
U. S. Department of Labor
525 Griffin Street, Room 317
Dallas, Texas 75202

Dear Mr. Juarez:

The State of Louisiana is requesting a modification to its approved waiver of the transfer of funds limitation between the Adult and Dislocated Worker programs under the Workforce Investment Act (WIA). The following justification is provided in support of our request for this most needed increased flexibility:

The Louisiana Department of Labor (LDOL), Office of Workforce Development (OWD), the State administrative entity for the Workforce Investment Act (WIA) is requesting a modification of the current waiver allowing transfer of up to 40% of a program year allocation between the Adult and Dislocated Worker programs to eliminate the limitation of transferring WIA funds between Adult and Dislocated Workers programs. This waiver modification would provide the ability to transfer 100% of funds between these programs and ensures the critical workforce needs of the local communities are met.

The eighteen (18) Local Workforce Investment Areas (LWIAs) serve a diverse group of businesses and job seekers facing very different obstacles. The needs of job seekers in urban areas with ample transportation differ from remote rural areas lacking accessible employment with career potential. Each region of the State needs the increased flexibility this waiver will provide to design programs to meet their unique differences. Continued reductions in Adult program funding are limiting the program's capacity to serve those most in need of Workforce Investment Area (WIA) services. In addition, many individuals experiencing layoffs in Louisiana also qualify for the Adult Program. Providing flexibility to the LWIAs will allow them to design innovative programs that meet the unique geography of each area and assist their residents move toward self-sufficiency.

Questions regarding this matter may be addressed to Mr. Cecil H. Sandlin at (225) 342-7631.

Sincerely,

John Warner Smith
Secretary

JWS:LSA:ACW:CHS:jr

OPTIONAL FORM 99 (7-90)

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GENERAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION